

Licensed Plus Quality Rating System Frequently Asked Questions and Answers (FAQs)

Questions about Certification

1. What is “certification” and how can a program become “certified”?
“Certification” means approved by the Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) to care for children in preventive or protective care. To receive a DCYF Certification packet, a provider must be referred by a Child Protective Social worker through a district office. Referrals are made when a child care provider agrees to accept for care a specific child in who is in protective or preventative care. The CPSW completes a form and submits it for supervisor’s review and approval. If approval is granted, the request is forwarded to the CDB Program Specialist who then coordinates the DCYF Certification Enrollment. If you are interested in becoming certified, contact your local DHHS District Office. (See resource list for contact information.)
2. Can a program be rated “Licensed Plus” without being “certified”?
Yes, all licensed programs are eligible to apply for the quality rating.
3. How often are cash awards made?
Recognition awards are given upon initial approval of Licensed Plus status. Cash awards for compliance will be awarded on an annual basis.
4. Will every program that applies be eligible for a cash award?
No, only programs certified with DHHS to serve children in preventive and protective care are eligible to receive a cash award.
5. Will there be a “wait list” for a recognition or cash award?
It is possible that there will not be adequate money to award all qualifying, certified programs. If this situation occurs, a wait list will be created.
6. How much money will be awarded to certified programs that qualify?
If your program is certified by DHHS to serve children in protective or preventive care, you are eligible to receive a recognition award of either \$250 or \$500 and a cash award of 5% of all payments received in the previous calendar year for DCYF, Step 1, Step 2 and Step 3, combined. Programs licensed for 30 or fewer children are eligible for the recognition award of \$250, and programs licensed for more than 30 children are eligible for the recognition award of \$500. Programs that are nationally accredited by NAFCC, NAEYC or NAA and currently receive a 10% payment from DHHS are not eligible for an additional incentive. The New Hampshire Quality Rating System will award 5% for Licensed Plus or 10% for Accreditation.